

Korean war veteran and a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am personally aware of the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform to serve and protect these freedoms.

When anyone seeks to destroy our system of government by acts of terrorism, it is certainly a slap in the face to those who have served to protect freedom. Allowing that individual to be buried alongside truly honorable veterans is not only an injustice, it is disrespectful of the memory of those buried in our military cemeteries and to their families who sacrificed as well.

This bill, introduced by Senator SPECTER, expands the criteria by which a veteran should be denied benefits and although I had planned to introduce such a bill, I am pleased to cosponsor S. 923 to be absolutely certain that any individual convicted of a crime as heinous as the Oklahoma City bombing will never be buried among our Nation's heroes.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment?

Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 414) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, and was read the third time.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I believe we are already for a vote on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the measure? If not, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] and the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. JOHNSON] are necessarily absent.

I further announce that the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. JOHNSON] is absent attending a funeral.

I further announce that the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] is absent due to a death in the family.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 106 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Abraham	Feingold	Lugar
Akaka	Feinstein	Mack
Allard	Ford	McCain
Ashcroft	Frist	McConnell
Baucus	Glenn	Mikulski
Bennett	Gorton	Moseley-Braun
Biden	Graham	Moynihhan
Bingaman	Gramm	Murkowski
Bond	Grams	Murray
Boxer	Grassley	Nickles
Breaux	Gregg	Reed
Brownback	Hagel	Reid
Bryan	Harkin	Robb
Bumpers	Hatch	Roberts
Burns	Helms	Rockefeller
Byrd	Hollings	Roth
Campbell	Hutchinson	Santorum
Chafee	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Cleland	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Inouye	Shelby
Cochran	Jeffords	Smith (NH)
Collins	Kempthorne	Smith (OR)
Conrad	Kennedy	Snowe
Coverdell	Kerrey	Specter
Craig	Kerry	Stevens
D'Amato	Kohl	Thomas
DeWine	Kyl	Thompson
Dodd	Landrieu	Thurmond
Domenici	Lautenberg	Torricelli
Dorgan	Leahy	Warner
Durbin	Levin	Wellstone
Enzi	Lieberman	Wyden
Faircloth	Lott	

NOT VOTING—2

Daschle

Johnson

The bill (S. 923), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 923

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DENIAL OF VETERANS BENEFITS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who is convicted of a Federal capital offense is ineligible for benefits provided to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to title 38, United States Code.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. STEVENS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GRASSLEY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE RICHARD MATSCH

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, as my colleagues know, the Oklahoma City bombing trial of Timothy McVeigh has concluded in Denver. The jury found McVeigh guilty on all 11 counts against him, and he has been sentenced to death.

Now that these proceedings are over, I take this opportunity to call to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding service of Chief Judge Richard

Matsch who presided over the Oklahoma City bombing trial at a time when many of us here in this body are considering the appointment process for Federal judges. His leadership has provided many Americans a renewed faith in the judicial process. His example of fair, firm leadership is an outstanding model we should consider for future Federal judicial appointments.

Many members of the legal profession and the media predicted that the Oklahoma City bombing trial would last 4 months. Under Judge Matsch's calm, competent direction, the trial concluded in only 2 months.

Judge Matsch has an impressive legal career. He was associate editor of the law review at the University of Michigan School of Law. After law school, he joined the U.S. Army and became an intelligence officer. When he left the Army, he moved to Denver where he was in private practice. Judge Matsch went on to become a city attorney, a Federal prosecutor, and a bankruptcy judge before President Nixon nominated him to the Federal bench in 1974. In 1994 he was elevated to chief judge.

Judge Richard Matsch has earned the admiration of his colleagues and lawyers who have appeared before him. Lawyers and colleagues from the bench praised the choice of Matsch to preside over the trial noting that he has the appropriate judicial temperament. One attorney who has argued before him said poetically, Judge Matsch "is better than indoor plumbing."

In light of the skillful and professional way Judge Matsch handled the proceedings of the McVeigh trial, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Judge Matsch to our justice system and commending him for his firm, swift justice in such a tragic case. He has touched the lives of many Americans with his outstanding service, and has renewed the faith in all of us that justice can be served.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

AUTHORIZATION FOR EAST-WEST CENTER

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, during the negotiations to achieve passage of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1997, a number of concessions had to be made to accommodate competing interests. One such example was the continuation of the authorization for the East-West Center at the current level of \$10 million for both fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

According to its budget justification, the East-West Center seeks to improve understanding and relations between Asia, the Pacific islands, and America. While this may be a worthwhile endeavor, we must question whether it merits a direct subsidy when the center seems to duplicate State Department activities and other private business, academic, cultural exchange, and tourism programs.

The East-West Center already receives a high proportion of its funding from private sources and project specific Federal grants. It seems that it could continue its core functions without the American taxpayer footing the bill. Even the Clinton administration has recognized the need to terminate Federal funding for this center. The administration's budget summary noted that the effort to phase out governmental funding for the East-West Center will continue with its request of \$7 million. Yesterday we took a step backwards from achieving that goal. It is my sincere hope that the appropriators will reduce funding from the current level.

I started my fight to eliminate Federal funding for the East-West Center nearly 2 years ago, and I plan to continue my efforts. Many of my colleagues think that \$10 million isn't a lot of money considering that we have a \$1.6 trillion budget. I believe every expenditure should be reviewed regularly. At a time when Congress, at the request of the taxpayers, is working to finally balance the budget, this kind of sole-source, noncompetitive project can no longer be justified.

U.N. VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, during the debate on reforming the United Nations to make it a more effective organization, there was little discussion about the important work that the United Nations carries out. One good example which directly relates to my State is, the U.N.'s leading role in promoting and providing financial assistance to treatment centers for victims of torture around the world. The passage of my amendment to the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1997, which authorizes the United States to contribute \$3 million in fiscal year 1998 and \$3 million in fiscal year 1999 to the U.N. Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, ensures that treatment centers in more than 50 countries will continue to receive support. I would like to thank the junior Senator from Minnesota for cosponsoring my amendment, and joining me in being an advocate for helping victims of torture.

My home State of Minnesota is fortunate to have the first and only comprehensive treatment center in the United States for victims of torture. The Center for Victims of Torture has treated over 500 patients since it was established in 1985, and has enabled them to become productive members of our communities by overcoming the atrocities suffered in their countries of origin. I have learned a great deal from visiting the Center and meeting its clients and staff. In addition to providing treatment to persons who have been tortured by foreign governments, the Center has been active in providing training and support for treatment centers abroad.

The United States should take a leading role in encouraging the estab-

lishment of additional treatment programs both at home and abroad. We are making progress in this direction. The United States is now the largest contributor to the U.N. Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. We must continue to support treatment centers, like the one in Minnesota, which helps those who cannot help themselves—victims of torture. Dedication more of our U.N. voluntary funds for this purpose will help provide this important service to more needy victims.

REPORTING OF S. 858, THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998 FROM THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I am pleased to favorably report out from the Committee on Armed Services, S. 858, the intelligence authorization bill for fiscal year 1998, without amendment or written report.

STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to express my concern about the passage of S. 903, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1997. Some of my distinguished colleagues have cited this legislation as historic in scope and worthy of support because of the consolidation of the U.S. Information Agency, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and parts of the Agency for International Development into the Department of State. I do not object to this consolidation, but I am concerned that the Senate is yet again infringing too much on the Presidential prerogative to be the primary architect of U.S. foreign policy. This bill gives microlevel direction on how consolidation should occur, and I feel that this is not appropriate for the Senate to be trying to micromanage the performance of our State Department agencies, offices, and employees.

Mr. President, I have other concerns as well with S. 903. As Senators LUGAR and SARBANES have articulated, I feel that we have established inappropriate benchmarks for the United Nations in this legislation so that moneys obligated by the United States to the United Nations can be released. I feel that it is important for the United States to communicate its concerns to the United Nations about its management problems. But I also feel it is important for the United States to honor its already incurred obligations and pay our debts. Furthermore, some of the tests that we impose on the United Nations are very inappropriate. For instance, during the first year, only \$100 million of the \$819 million in arrears payments after a sovereignty test, which states that efforts must be taken to ensure that no U.S. law be over-ridden or changed by any action of the United Nations. I don't believe that there are many legislators in this Congress who believe for

a moment that any U.N. law would purport to have such authority, nor would the United States allow such authority to be vested in the United Nations. However, the inclusion of this in S. 903 sends a signal to our constituents that this is a serious problem. I was sent to the Senate to try and address real problems, not to stir up fake ones.

On another front, it seems to me strange that we would be abolishing two agencies and preparing for the absorption of a third into the Department of State and at the same time creating a brand-new stand-alone agency to oversee the broadcasting functions that were traditionally part of the U.S. Information Agency and under the auspices of the Board for International Broadcasting, which was abolished by the International Broadcasting Act of 1994. We should be basing our current institutional consolidations on the basis that the cold war has ended and that we need to reorganize to meet the challenges of a new and different international system. This legislation however, which sets up a structure virtually identical to the Board for International Broadcasting will cover, among other activities, our broadcasting to Cuba activities. I think that it is not wise to build new institutions, which this bill does, which will keep our Nation mired in a cold war mode.

For these and other reasons, Mr. President, I am registering my objection to this State Department authorization bill, S. 903. I realize that this bill will pass with overwhelming support from this Chamber, but I believe that sometimes we can give away too much on the commonsense front to strike a deal.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages, from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:42 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 985. An act to provide for the expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness within Arapaho and White River National Forests, Colorado, to include the lands known as the Slate Creek Addition upon the acquisition of the lands by the United States.

H.R. 1057. An act to designate the building in Indianapolis, Indiana, which houses the